

Appendix K

Special Status Species

Appendix K

SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

Special-Status Plants and Vegetation Communities

There are numerous recorded special-status plants in the City limits, according to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) search conducted for this report. Furthermore, the recorded sites are only an indication of areas where surveys have been conducted. Additional habitat and species populations may be present along additional portions of the shoreline and in the hills, where urban development has generally been excluded.

The CNDDDB search included the Hayward, San Leandro, Redwood Point, and Newark quad maps. Within or immediately adjacent to the City limits, the following vegetation resources were listed:

- Congdon's traplant, a species listed by the California Native Plant Society, which is considered extirpated from this database location due to residential and commercial development since the 1930s onward.
- Hairless popcorn flower, a species listed by the California Native Plant Society, which was recorded around the turn of the century. It utilizes salt marsh habitat, and therefore is presumed to be extant.
- Alkali milk-vetch, a species listed by the California Native Plant Society, which relies on alkali flats and vernal pools. It is presumed extirpated from its early sightings in the early 1900's near Mt. Eden and A Street.
- the Northern Coastal Salt Marsh habitat, next to salt ponds and flood control channels, mapped in 1977 in the Alameda Creek Marsh.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was also contacted during the preparation of this report. The Service provided a response, including a listing of one threatened plant (Santa Cruz Tarplant), and four other important plant species (Alkali Milk Vetch, Fragrant Fritillary, Diablo Helianthella, and pappose spikeweed (also known as Congdon's Tarplant) that may occur in or be affected by projects in the Hayward Quad. As noted above, these listings are general and may rely on outdated information. Site-specific surveys are required to determine the suitability of habitat and actual presence or absence on an individual project site.

In addition to the descriptions above, the USFWS list includes:

- Santa Cruz tarplant, a federally listed Threatened species and State listed Endangered species that relies on grasslands and vernal pools.
- Fragrant fritillary, listed by the California Native Plant Society, and was recorded by the CNDDDB as being to the north of the City along Fairmont Drive in grassland on serpentine soils.

- Diablo Helianthella, listed by the California Native Plant Society and recorded by the CNDDDB in valley needlegrass along Fairmont Drive in San Leandro.

Special-Status Wildlife

The City's urban area is composed of common upland habitat (i.e., ruderal vegetation) and urban development that do not provide suitable habitat conditions for special-status animal species. The creeks through the area provide very limited aquatic habitat, due to prior conversion to engineered channels and culverts. As noted above, the undeveloped areas adjacent to the Bay shore and the Hayward hills provide the primary habitat resources for the City.

A search of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) was conducted as part of the preparation of this report. The database identified records of 15 different wildlife species within or immediately adjacent to the City boundaries on the Hayward, Newark, Redwood Point, and San Leandro quad maps. These include:

- California Red-legged Frog, a federally listed Threatened species that requires aquatic and upland habitat, recorded in the Hayward hills from Fairview to Union City.
- Northern Harrier, a State species of concern, along the Bay shore nesting in salt marsh at the mouth of Alameda Creek.
- Sharp-Shinned Hawk, a State species of concern, along Walpert Ridge in the East Bay Regional Park lands, using habitat of live oak woodland, bay laurel, and grassland.
- White-Tailed Kite, a federally protected migratory bird of concern and fully protected by the Fish and Game Code.
- Golden Eagle, a federally protected migratory bird of concern and fully protected by the Fish and Game Code, and a State species of concern, nests in the Walpert Ridge area in lands of the East Bay Regional Park District.
- California Clapper Rail, a federal and State-listed Endangered species, relies on salt water and brackish marshes in the vicinity of the Bay, associated with abundant growths of pickleweed such as along the mouth of Alameda Creek and at the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center. Threatened by non-native red fox and heavy recreational use.
- Western Snowy Plover, a State species of concern, and listed as threatened for the Pacific coast by the federal government. Utilizes salt pond levees, needs sandy, gravelly, or friable soils for nesting.
- California Least Tern, a federal and State-listed Endangered species, the salt ponds provide major post-breeding staging areas.
- Black Skimmer, a California species of concern, nesting in brackish water ponds with raised islands with sparse vegetation.

- Saltmarsh Common Yellowthroat, a State species of concern, with territories along the freshwater marsh and diked wetlands west of Hesperian Blvd.
- Double-Crested Cormorant, a State species of concern, found in nests along the Hayward-San Mateo bridge.
- Salt-Marsh Wandering Shrew, a State species of concern, utilizing salt marsh along the Bay shore.
- Salt-Marsh Harvest Mouse, a State and federally-listed Endangered species, only in the saline emergent wetlands of the San Francisco Bay and its tributaries, including the Hayward shoreline.
- Alameda Whipsnake, a State and federally-listed Threatened species, occupying oak grassland in the hills of Hayward.
- Steelhead - Central Coast ESU, a federally-listed Threatened species, in Alameda Creek.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided a response to the Notice of Preparation, including a list of wildlife species that could occur in the Hayward Quad area. Two mammals, five birds, one reptile, one amphibian, six fish, and one invertebrate are listed as threatened or endangered and potentially occurring in the Hayward quad. One amphibian and two fish are included as candidate species. Many more are included as species of concern.

Listed species include (threatened species indicated with T, endangered with E):

- riparian (San Joaquin Valley) woodrat (E)
- salt marsh harvest mouse (E)
- western snowy plover (T)
- bald eagle (T)
- California brown pelican (E)
- California clapper rail (E)
- California least tern (E)
- Alameda whipsnake and its critical habitat (T)
- California red-legged frog (T)
- delta smelt (T)
- coho salmon, central California coast (T)
- Central California Coastal steelhead (T)
- winter-run chinook salmon (E)
- Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon and its critical habitat (T)
- Sacramento splittail (T)
- vernal pool fairy shrimp (T).